

BOTANICAL LEAFLETS

ISSUE 23

SPRING 2019



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's been a great spring and early summer here in Northern California. I hope all of you were able to get out and see the super bloom in your area. Table Mountain was spectacular this year. I have been a volunteer at the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge this spring with Jenny Marr looking for rare plants in the vernal pools and alkali flats. The wildflower displays at the refuge were fantastic this year too. I also helped with two wildflower shows. The Mt. Lassen Chapter of the California Native Plant Soci-

ety had their show in April here in Chico and was well attended. I also helped with the Siskiyou Wildflower Show in Yreka sponsored by the Klamath and Shasta Trinity National Forests. There were many people who came throughout Mother's Day to enjoy that show.

We received numerous fantastic applications for our 2019-2020 Research Scholarships. There will be 11 scholarships awarded at \$1,000 each. Thank you very much to the Shasta and

the Sacramento Valley chapters of the California Native Plant Society for providing money for two of the scholarships. Hopefully a new batch of botanists doing vital work in Northern California will develop from those scholarships.

Planning is underway for the 2020 Symposium. See page 2 for more details!

Have a wonderful summer pursuing your many vast botanical adventures.

Linnea Hanson, President

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THANK YOU TO JENN YOST AND WELCOME KRISTEN KACZYNSKI TO THE BOARD!

Jenn Yost stepped down from the Board this past spring after 5 years of service. Jenn was instrumental in many of the NCB programs including the Scholarship Review Committee and Symposia planning. Thank you Jenn!

NCB is pleased to announce the appointment of Kristen Kaczynski to the Board to replace Jenn. Kristen is an Assistant Professor of Applied Ecology in the Geological and Environmental Sciences Department at Chico State. Originally from the East Coast, she fell in love with Northern California during her first job after college as a botanist on the Shasta Trinity National Forest. Currently, she specializes in disturbance impacts to and restoration of wetland ecosystems. Welcome Kristen!

MYSTERY PLANT

This diminutive plant is found in grasslands throughout the Coast Ranges and Central Valley. Despite the wide distribution, individual populations are often small and threatened with extirpation. This annual herb blooms from March to May and produces small (1 cm) white flowers that are self-pollinating. Formally in a more common genus, it has since been placed in a monotypic genus of its own.



Photo by Jane Van Susteren

(Answer on Page 2)

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2020 NCB SYMPOSIUM IN CHICO—SAVE THE DATE!

The tenth Northern California Botanists Symposium will be held at CSU Chico on January 13-14, 2020 with optional workshops on the 15th. Sessions will include Fire, Pollination, Restoration, Species Boundary Definitions, Plant/Biotic Interactions, Lightning Talks, And Now the Good News, and New Discoveries. More information will be posted on our website in September.

Our Lightning Talks Session will be a

half hour of six 5-minute long talks. If you are interested in giving a lightning talk, please send one or two sentences about your topic, a title, and your contact information to ncbotanists@gmail.com

We are happy to announce that **Eric Knapp** will be our **Keynote Speaker**. Eric is a research ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station, with a research

focus on forest ecology in relation to disturbance, particularly fire. He is interested in understanding changes that have occurred in the absence of fire as well as the ecological effects and fire behavior implications of different forest and fuel management practices. His talk will be titled "Fire trends, causes, and consequences for the native plants we love".

We hope to see you next January!

2019-2020 STUDENT RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Northern California Botanists provides monetary scholarships for students doing research on botanical subjects in northern and central California. The Sacramento Valley and Shasta chapters of CNPS generously support this program by funding an additional scholarship each. We received 19 applications this year, and as usual, there were many great research projects to choose from. Congratulations to these students and thank you to all that submitted applications!

2019-2020 NCB RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Recipient	Degree Program	College	Title of Research Project
Lacey Benson	M.S.	San Jose State University	Understanding biogeography of western sword fern gametophytes across an ecological gradient.
Justin Luong	Ph.D.	University of California, Santa Cruz	What happens to restored coastal prairies years after implementation?
Carly Miranda	M.S.	San Francisco State University	Population genetics and conservation of endangered Suisun thistle, <i>Cirsium hydrophilum</i> var. <i>hydrophilum</i> and its close relatives.
Keir Morse *Shasta Chapter award *	Ph.D.	Claremont Graduate University	Taxonomy and conservation of the genus <i>Malacothamnus</i> (Malvaceae).
Cory O'Gorman	M.S.	Sonoma State University	Black oak restoration and conservation at Pepperwood Preserve: Mapping individuals and predicting species success in light of climate change and traditional ecological knowledge.
Deana Paolilii	M.S.	Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	Assessing alpine vegetation community shifts in the Sierra Nevada
Devon Picklum	Ph.D.	University of Nevada, Reno	Visual limits: Taking a bee's eye view to understand the ecological consequences of multi-trait similarity in two Sierra Nevada alpine wildflowers.
Alex Rinkert	M.S.	San Jose State University	Bird nests as botanical time capsules for lost habitat.
Jospeh Saler	M.S.	Humboldt State University	Investigating the initial response to a restoration treatment within a Northern California fen.
Jackie Shay	Ph.D.	University of California, Merced	Endophytes of monkeyflowers (<i>Erythranthe laciniata</i>) across the species range.
Sean Stewart	Undergrad	Humboldt State University	Lanphere Dunes seedbank study.

Answer to "Mystery Plant": *California macrophylla* (H. & A.) Aldasoro, Navarro, Vargas, Saez and Aedo—Round leaved filaree

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BOTANISTS IN ACTION

A continuing series that highlights well-known to possibly less-well-known botanists, with photographs from the present to several decades back. Please share unpublished pictures of northern California botanists: send jpegs and information to jane.vansusteren@gmail.com



Jessica O'Brien has been a Botanist with Sierra Pacific Industries since 2004. She has conducted rare plant surveys and monitored rare plant populations across SPI's company ownership in Northern California, but predominately focuses now on the northern and central Sierra Nevada mountains. She has worked on studies of the morphology of *Fritillaria eastwoodiae* and *Lewisia*

kelloggii, and the range of *Erythronium citrinum* var. *roderickii* and *Silene salmonacea*. Jessica is a California native who grew up in the Santa Cruz mountains where she first fell in love with plants. She pursued her undergrad at UC Davis in Plant Biology. She spent two years working in the horticulture field before pursuing field botany. It's hard to beat a job where you get paid to hike all day in beautiful places and look for rare plants. She still has a soft spot in her heart for gardening and helped create and install a native pollinator garden at a local elementary school and loves seeing the next generations exposed to native plants.



Jason Sexton is an Assistant Professor at UC Merced and a member of the Northern California Botanists Board. He received his B.S. in Environmental Biology from CSU Humboldt, his M.S. in Organismal Biology and Ecology from University of Missoula, Montana, and his Ph.D. in Ecology from UC Davis. He studies how plants respond to novel environmental conditions and how those adaptations impact how those plants will respond to climate change. His lab covers topics ranging from conservation genomics of vernal pool ecosystems, the role of the microbiome in plant adaptation, and climate adaptation and the ecology and evolution of species range limits. He's worked throughout North America as well as in alpine Australia, but has returned to Northern/Central California for good.



Jessica Orozco, (deceased), shown here with a "*Salvia* selfie". She received her B.S from San Francisco State and her M.S. from Claremont Graduate University. She was a specialist on flora of the South Fork of the Tule River Watershed in Tulare County. She created a reference herbarium of the

watershed for the Tule River Indian Reservation. She also studied the genetics of human-mediated dispersal of chia sage. She worked with the Hualapai Tribe in northern Arizona as a Range Scientist and as a Tribal Botanist for the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe in Pomona, California. She worked tirelessly to educate new botanists and provide opportunities for her peers. The world is a poorer place without her infectious enthusiasm for all things green and growing.



Michelle Halbur is an Ecologist at the Pepperwood Preserve located in the Sonoma County Mayacamas Mountains. She received her B.S. from UC Davis in Plant Biology and an M.S. from Purdue University where she studied the conservation genetics of a rare California vernal pool plant *Sebastopol meadowfoam* (*Limnanthes*

vinculans). She manages projects that monitor the impacts of adaptive land management on the preserve as well as Pepperwood's conservation grazing, prescribed fire, invasive weed management, and forest management programs. She also manages the Stephen J. Barnhart Herbarium and has expanded into the faunal realm supervising the Wildlife Picture Index and Breeding Bird Survey projects, Pepperwood's citizen science and visiting scholar programs. Her quest to maintain a sense of wonder throughout life is fulfilled by her love of science, nature, good food and friendship, and the joy of rediscovering the magic of flowers with her children.



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
BOTANISTS

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Chico, CA 95927-8042

Save the Date!
NCB 2020 Symposium
January 13-14, 2020
Chico, California

Please send address changes to:

ncbotanists@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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MEMBERSHIP DUES:

_____ Individual \$25.00 _____ Student/Limited Income \$15.00

_____ Family or Small Business/Non-Profit (two memberships) \$40.00

In addition, I would like to donate \$_____ to Northern California Botanists to help fund NCB programs and student research scholarships.

Make checks payable to "Northern California Botanists" and mail to:

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